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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,465	09/28/2004	Thomas William Bailey	PG4774USW	2241
23347 7590 03/16/2009 GLAXOSMITHKLINE CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, MAI B482 FIVE MOORE DR., PO BOX 13398 RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709-3398				
EXAMINER MAUST, TIMOTHY LEWIS				
ART UNIT 3751		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 03/16/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,465

Applicant(s)

BAILEY ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy L. Maust

Art Unit

3751

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-27,32,33,37-44 and 88-90 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-27,32,33,37-44 and 88-90 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/12/09
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/12/09 has been entered.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 2, 10-27, 32, 33, 37-44 and 88-90 of this application conflict with claims 1, 2, 10-33 and 35-43 of Application No. 10/509466. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application. Applicant is required to either cancel the conflicting claims from all but one application or maintain a clear line of demarcation between the applications. See MPEP § 822.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory

obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 2, 10-27, 32, 33, 37-44 and 88-90 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 10-33 and 35-43 of Application No. 10/509466. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they define the same method of loading powder.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 2, 10-27, 32, 33, 37-44 and 88-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Wilson et al (WO 00/71419) in view of Dworak et al. (5,549,144).

Regarding claims 1 and 90, Wilson et al teach a method of forming a tablet product (page 12, line 10 and figure 6 item 535), which comprises providing a perforated plate (figure 1a item 10 and page 9, line 20), each perforation extending from a first opening in a first side of the disk to a second opening on a second side of the disk (see figure 6); and a first director blade spaced from the first side of the disk (see figures 1-2); the method also comprising the steps of:

a) said first director blade with powder being disposed on the first side of the plate on a first path thereof which is different from the circular path (pages 10, lines 28-34);

b) closing off one of the perforations in the disk by inserting a blanking pin into the perforation through the second opening (page 10, lines 25-28);

d) directing powder into said closed-off perforation by the sweeping action of a first director blade pages 10, lines 25-35);

e) compacting said powder in the closed-off perforation by inserting a compaction pin into the closed-off perforation through the first opening, to form a tablet (page 12, lines 1-5); and

f) transferring said tablet from the perforation through the second opening of by withdrawing the blanking pin from the perforation through the second opening to reopen the perforation, and moving the compacting pin towards the second opening to transfer the compacted powder contents from the perforation (page 12, lines 7-15).

While Wilson et al teach that rotary systems are well known in the art (page 3, lines 13-14), the invention detailed does not teach that the perforated plate is a disk and has rotary movement, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply these teachings to a circular disk for ease of continuous operation.

Dworak et al teach that the perforated plate is in the form of a planar disk having plural perforations arranged in a circular path on the disk (see figure 2)

a) having relative rotary motion of the perforate plate (see item A in figure 2 and column 3, lines 16-20) and the method further comprising the following steps while there is relative rotary motion (described in column 3, lines 13-20); c) directing powder from the first path onto the circular path (shown in figure 2 items 84 a and b and column 4,

lines 23-35); d) directing powder on the circular path (figure 2 and items 84 and 86, column 4, lines 23-35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Dworak's use of rotational motion in the Wilson method for the benefit of providing a continuous platform for the production of powder tablets.

Regarding claim 2, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied in claim 1 and Dworak further teaches that the first director blade is held static (stationary plows, column 4 line 25) and the perforated plate moves in rotary fashion relative thereto (shown in figure 2).

Regarding claims 10-13, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that the director blades are positioned at an acute angle, preferably at an angle of 5-25 degrees (page 3, lines 24-27), and that the first director blade presents multiple forward acute angles to the path of relative motion (page 3, lines 29-30).

Regarding claims 14-16, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that the blade can be flat, curved, or articulated (page 3, lines 29- 30 and page 9 line 24 - page 10 line 5).

Regarding claims 17-19, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that a thin (from 4 to 8 mm) layer of powder is left on the perforated plate after movement of the first director blade (page 4, lines 9-11).

Regarding claims 20-23, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that the powder is further directed into the perforation by at least one subsequent director blade wherein the distance between the level of movement of the first director blade and the at least one subsequent director blade is 1 to 3 mm (page 4, lines 13-24).

Regarding claim 24, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Dworak further teaches the step of removing excess powder from said circular path and directing the excess powder back to the first path subsequent to step d) (as shown by the plows in figure 2 and column 4, lines 23-35).

Regarding claims 25 and 88, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Dworak further teaches removing said excess powder by the action of a wiper (item 88 figure 2 and column 4, line 31).

Regarding claims 26 and 27, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that said tablet is transferred to a container by the action of

a transfer pin by opening the perforation and transferring the tablet directly into the container (figure 6 and page 12, lines 7-15).

Regarding claims 32 and 33, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Dworak further teaches compressing to form a dense tablet (40-60% of original state, column 4, line 48).

Regarding claims 37-39, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that container is a blind cavity with a lid selected from the group consisting of a blister pocket, an injection molded plastic pocket, a capsule and a bulk container (page 5 line 30- page 6, line 2).

Regarding claims 40 and 90, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches loading plural blisters arranged in series on an elongate blister strip with a tablet wherein the perforations are arranged in a series on the circular path and each perforation is associated with its own blanking pin and compacting pin (page 12 line 29- page 13 line 18 and figures 7-8b) and wherein the method comprises: closing off each perforation with its associated blanking pin in step b) (page 12 line 30 and figure 8a) directing powder into each closed-off perforation in step d) by the sweeping action of the first director blade (page 13 line 3); compacting said powder in each closed-off perforation in step e) by inserting the associated compacting pin into the closed-off perforation through the first opening to form a tablet (see figure 8b); and

transferring said tablet from the second opening of each perforation to a corresponding blister of said elongate blister strip, in step f) by withdrawing the associated blanking pin from each perforation through the second opening and moving the associated compacting pin towards the second opening (see figure 8b and page 13 lines 14-18).

Regarding claims 41 and 89, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that in step f) each perforation of the perforated plate is serially brought into registration with the corresponding blister of the blister strip (page 12 line 29- page 13 line 18 and figures 7-8b).

Regarding claim 42, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied in claim 41 and Dworak further teaches that at registration, the perforated plate is rotating and the blister strip is moving on a linear path (as shown in figure 2 items 38, and 48, column 2 line 65 - column 3 line 12).

Regarding claims 43 and 44, Wilson and Dworak remain as applied previously and Wilson further teaches that the tablet product comprises a medicament (page 6, line 4).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L. Maust whose telephone number is (571) 272-4891. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thur. 7:00-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4883. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Timothy L Maust/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3751

3/2/09